

The passages below are followed by questions based on their content; questions following a pair of related passages may also be based on the relationship between the paired passages. Answer the questions on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage and in any introductory material that may be provided.

Questions 6-9 are based on the following passages.

### Passage 1

The War of 1812 between the U.S. and England is one of the least-known in American history. Ironically, this war cemented America's independence in Europe's eyes. Although lacking a clear winner, it proved to the Old World that the U.S. could hold its own against the mighty British navy, then in the heyday of its impressive power. The war was fought for several reasons: the U.S. declaration of war was ostensibly in response to British actions against American goods and sailors. Also, many Americans had their eyes on the rich Spanish territory of Florida and the vast land of Canada.

### Passage 2

Curiously, one of the most important battles of the War of 1812 actually took place after the war was over. For three years, the United States and Britain were locked in a stalemate, with neither side emerging as a clear victor. While the Americans forced the British into Canada and defeated them at the Battle of the Thames, the British succeeded in burning Washington. Less than three weeks after signing the Treaty of Ghent on December 24, 1814, General Andrew Jackson defeated the British in a decisive battle at New Orleans, a victory that contributed greatly to the development of American confidence and nationalism.

6. According to Passage 1, which of the following contributed to the U.S.'s decision to declare war on England in 1812?

- I. Expansionist tendencies among United States citizens and leaders
- II. British actions taken against U.S. interests
- III. A desire to show U.S. independence from England

- (A) I only
- (B) II only
- (C) I and II
- (D) I and III
- (E) I, II, and III

7. Both passages support which of the following statements about the War of 1812?

- (A) Neither side was able to score a decisive victory in the war.
- (B) The war was important not just for the results of the battles but for its effect on the American psyche.
- (C) It is likely that the U.S. would have won the war if it had continued on.
- (D) The war was the most significant international engagement of the nineteenth century.
- (E) The war was justified due to British injustices against the U.S.

8. The authors of both passages would likely agree that

- (A) from a military standpoint, neither the United States nor Britain could claim to have won the War of 1812
- (B) the War of 1812 had a much greater impact on American citizens than it did on British citizens
- (C) the British forces would most likely have won the War of 1812 if they had not lost the Battle of the Thames
- (D) Andrew Jackson's victory at New Orleans was the most important battle of the War of 1812
- (E) the War of 1812 is not well known among people in the United States and Britain

9. In Passage 2, the author most likely considers Andrew Jackson's victory the "most important" battle because

- (A) it proved to the British that the American army was a force to be reckoned with
- (B) the American forces had not won a battle since the burning of Washington
- (C) without Jackson's victory, the British would have been less willing to sign a peace treaty
- (D) it was the only battle in which the American forces had been able to defeat the British
- (E) the victory at New Orleans carried a great symbolic value to the people of America

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## SECTION 4

1. E The clue in this sentence is *they hoard water in their leaves*. If the plants are hoarding water, they must be doing it to survive long periods without water. So you can put “without water” in the blank, in which case the best match is *aridity*.
2. E The clue for this sentence is *eloquence and logic*. If Liam is eloquent and logical, he must speak “very well”; therefore, you can eliminate A, C, and D because they’re negative. Liam’s eloquence and logic probably made it difficult for his *most bitter opponents* to contradict his opinions. The best match for “contradict” is *disagree with*, in E. It also makes sense that Liam’s eloquence and logic made him speak *cogently*.
3. D The clue in this sentence is *first deduced from eccentricities in other planets’ orbits*. If subatomic particles are being compared to the outer planets, then these particles must have been deduced through their effects on other particles. If you put “deducible” (recycle the clues!) in the first blank, you can get rid of A. What was deduced about the outer planets and subatomic particles? That they existed. So you can put “existence” in the second blank, which means D must be the answer. Notice that it would not make sense to talk about the outer planets’ *proximity*, or their *creation*; they are not close by and you really can’t deduce creation.
4. D The clues in this sentence are *foster* and *in tense situations*. Because *foster* is a positive word, meaning to care for or nurture, a good phrase for the first blank must be positive; you can get rid of C because *dissension* is a negative word and E because *discourse* is neither positive nor negative. If Miranda wants to foster something good, then in tense situations she is probably compelled to give in to others. You can use “give in” for the second blank, which means you can eliminate A. Between B and D, you can eliminate B because *fortitude* doesn’t make any sense in the first blank. Remember, it’s often easier to figure out which answer is wrong than to figure out which one is right.
5. C The clue in this sentence is *helped bring about a period of prosperity in the United Kingdom*, and the trigger word is *although*, which means the blank must be the opposite of *helped*. If you put “harmful” in the blank, the best match is *regressive*.
6. C I and II are both true. The author tells you that the war was fought for several reasons. The reasons that are mentioned are a desire for Florida and Canada on the part of the U.S.—i.e., *expansionist tendencies*—and as a response to *British actions taken against the U.S.* Statement III is mentioned as an unexpected result of the war, which means it couldn’t have been a reason for starting the war.
7. B Choice B is the best answer. Passage 1 states that the war was in effect a second War of Independence. Passage 2 states that American confidence and nationalism increased after the war. A is wrong because Passage 2 mentions battles that each side won. The passage does not give you any information to support C. D may be true, but neither passage speaks about other international conflicts. E is more closely related to Passage 1 than Passage 2.

8. A In the first passage, the author says the war lacked a *clear winner*. Passage 2 says that there was no *clear victor*. B, while perhaps true, is incorrect because the impact on British citizens is not mentioned in the passages. C can't be supported anywhere in Passage 2. D is more relevant to Passage 2 than Passage 1. E is incorrect because the second passage doesn't mention how well known the war is in either the United States or Britain. A is the best answer.
9. E Choice E is the best answer. Passage 2 states that although the war was over, Jackson's victory contributed greatly to American confidence and nationalism. A contains information from Passage 1 and so is incorrect. B is not clearly supported by Passage 2 because no other battles are mentioned. C is incorrect because Jackson's victory took place after the treaty was signed. D is directly contradicted by the passage which says that the Americans defeated the British at the Battle of the Thames.
10. B In lines 35–38, the passage says, *Thus he had hardly seen the sea—had seen it fleetingly...and he had never actually traveled around it*. If you read further, you also learn that Poseidon was waiting for the fall of the world so he would have a quiet moment to make a quick little tour of the sea. From that you can infer that Poseidon is too busy to see his own kingdom. A gets it backward. The passage says that Poseidon's trips to visit Jupiter are the only break in the monotony of his job, so if anything, he prefers the trips to his duties, not the other way around. C is wrong because the passage doesn't say anything about Poseidon needing silence. D contradicts the passage. Poseidon is waiting for the fall of the world so that he can finally get out and make a quick little tour of his domain, which he has never had a chance to see. E is wrong because the passage doesn't say anything to suggest that Poseidon is inefficient.
11. D The lead word for this question is *dissatisfaction*, so you should go back to the passage and find where it mentions Poseidon's dissatisfaction. Lines 28–31 describe what is chiefly responsible for his dissatisfaction. He does not like to hear the conceptions formed about him: *how he was always riding about through the tides with his trident*. According to the passage, Poseidon doesn't actually get out much at all, so people have the wrong idea about what he actually does. This is exactly what D says. A contradicts the passage. Poseidon was so irritated by the false idea people had that he was always riding around with his trident. B is a trap. The question asks what is primarily responsible for Poseidon's dissatisfaction. Although something similar to B is mentioned earlier in the passage, it's not *chiefly responsible for his dissatisfaction* (line 29). Use the lead words to make sure you are reading in the right place. C contradicts the passage. Poseidon does the exact same thing every day. That's why he's so bored and unhappy. E is incorrect because the passage says that Poseidon actually did most of the bookkeeping tasks himself, leaving little for his assistants to do (lines 5–7).